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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have looked into the matter and they are now satisfied that there will be no difficulty like the one apprehended by the hon. Member."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Tribunal has recommended the wages of the workers on a temporary basis and whether these recommendations have been carried out by the estate owners? As far as I know of conditions in the district of Malabar, these recommendations have not been implemented fully. May I request the Hon. the Minister for Labour to enquire into the matter and see that these recommendations are implemented by estate owners? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The managements of the estates are no doubt bound to carry out these interim awards. If there are any specific cases of non-implementation, I would suggest to the hon. Member to bring such instances to my notice."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware 8-50 a.m.
that housing and living conditions of these labourers are much below the standard set for the workers by the International Organisation for the whole world? And will the Hon. Minister kindly include the survey of these conditions also by the present Tribunal? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is a very comprehensive enquiry that has been undertaken by this Tribunal, Sir."

Skimmed milk powder from foreign countries

* 1106 *Q.*—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of skimmed milk powder accepted till now by the Madras Government for free distribution from the UNICEF and United States of America; and

(*b*) whether any skimmed milk powder was accepted during the years 1953 and 1954?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—(*a*) 4,362,500 lb., Sir.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir. 1,700,000 lb., and 750,000 lb. respectively during 1953 and 1954."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, may I know whether skimmed milk powder is distributed only in particular areas or in all areas of the State? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is distributed throughout the State, Sir, through Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, through elementary schools, and through hospitals and orphanages, etc."

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DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have followed up and checked up the distribution and seen that the distribution is made properly? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, to the extent possible."

Outbreak of fire in Neelamangalam cheri

* 1107 *Q.*—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY (on behalf of Sri L. Anandan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 120 houses belonging to Harijans in Neelamangalam cheri in Kallakurichi taluk, South Arcot district, were destroyed by fire recently;

(*b*) if so, what relief the Government propose to give to the Harijans affected by the accident; and

(*c*) whether the Government contemplate opening a fire station in the taluk headquarters?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A fire broke out in Neelamangalam cheri on 3rd December 1954 in which roofs of 111 thatched houses and some household articles were burnt.

" (*b*) A sum of Rs. 3,150 has been granted as relief, at Rs. 30 to each of the 105 families who were poor and eligible for help from the Government.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that the present policy of having a fire station only in municipal areas results in difficulties in areas like Kallakurichi and for 800 square miles around it has not a single municipality? So, will the Government consider the desirability of having a fire station in each taluk headquarters? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Now, we have fixed a target of having a fire station in each of the municipalities, even in respect of which, we have to open fire stations in eleven more municipalities. As soon as that programme is completed, we shall take up the question of opening fire stations in taluk headquarters."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Even though the policy of the Government is not to locate fire stations in every taluk, at least in the case of Kallakurichi, will the Government consider opening of a fire station in or near Kallakurichi as a special case? For, there are complaints of frequent outbreaks of fire in and around Kallakurichi and this is also revealed by publication of such accidents in the Press."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of any frequent outbreaks of fire, particularly in this area. On the other hand, there is the other criticism that these fire stations